

RESOLUTION #2016 – 07 (Approved)

Resolution Supporting Access to Driver's Licenses for Undocumented Pennsylvanians

Presented by Calvary United Methodist Church, Arch St United Methodist Church and the Eastern PA Conference Immigration Rapid Response Team

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church believes that all persons are equally valuable in the sight of God and that it is the responsibility of the church to demonstrate that belief.

WHEREAS, the estimated 200,000 undocumented immigrants in Pennsylvania are denied access to driver's licenses preventing them from driving to work, school, healthcare appointments and stores and shops of all kinds, thus impeding them from caring for their own families and neighbors as well as making a significant contribution to the local economy.

WHEREAS, the opportunity for undocumented immigrants to drive legally includes passing a driver's test and obtaining automobile insurance thus making roads safer for all.

WHEREAS, The United Methodist Church has adopted resolutions and supported legislation that offer God's love and grace to welcome immigrants, oppose policies that threaten family unity and promote comprehensive immigration reform.

WHEREAS, common-sense legislation has been put forth in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in the form of HB 1450 to provide access to driver's licenses for Pennsylvania residents regardless of immigration status in order to improve the Commonwealth's economy, public safety, and the lives of immigrants.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United Methodist Church of Eastern Pennsylvania demonstrate support for HB 1450 which allows access to driver's licenses for undocumented Pennsylvanians by authorizing the presenters of this resolution to send a copy of the resolution to the appropriate set of elected officials and recommends that United Methodist agencies, congregations and individuals endorse this legislation as it is introduced and communicate that endorsement to the appropriate elected officials.

Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Lauren Ballester, Calvary United Methodist Church, Judy Claude, Arch Street United Methodist, Ruth Daugherty and Rev. Lilian L. Cotto, Co-chairs of the Immigration Rapid Response Team of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.